

Earldom of East Anglia (or Angles)

Seat/Counties		Norwich Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambridgeshire, Essex and Lincolnshire	Principle source	The Danelaw by Cyril Hart
Date	History of Lordship			Monarchs
871	Creation of the English Monarchy			Alfred the Great 871-899 Edward Elder 899-924 Athelstan 924-939
930	The Danes are driven from East Anglia and East Anglia becomes an Earldom under King Athelstan. Elfred or Alfred is the 1st Earl of East Anglia (or Angles).			Edmund I 939-946 Edred 946-955 Edwy 955-959
932	Ethelstan Half-King is appointed 2nd Earl of East Anglia by King Aethelstan.			Edgar 959-975
956	Ethelstan becomes a monk at Glastonbury Abbey. He dies leaving a son and heir Ethelwold who becomes the 3rd Earl of East Anglia .			Edward the Martyr 975-978
962	King Edgar is seeking a Queen and hears that Ordgar's daughter Elfthryth is a great beauty. He sends Ethelwald to propose marriage if she was indeed beautiful. Ethelwald marries her himself and reports to King Edgar that she is unsuitable. King Edgar hears of the betrayal and decides to visit her. Ethelwald tells her to make herself as unattractive as possible. She does the opposite and King Edgar becomes besotted with her during his visit. During a hunt King Edgar kills Ethelwald and marries Elfthryth. He dies without issue (childless) and his heir is his younger brother Ethelwine the 4th Earl of East Anglia .			Ethelred 978-1016
969	Ethelwine founds Ramsey Abbey.			
975	King Edgar dies and Ethelwine is one of the key supporters of Edward's succession to the throne of England. Ethelwine dispossess the monks of Ely of their lands.			
984	Ethelwine becomes the leading lay figure at the court of King Ethelred.			
992	Ethelwine dies following a long illness. The Abbot of Ramsey and Archbishop of Canterbury are with him at his death. He leaves a son and heir Ethelweard who is a key adviser to King Ethelred. It is not known why the Earldom did not pass to Ethelweard, but it passes to Leofsige the 5th Earl of East Anglia .			

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1002	Leofsige is sent by King Ethelred to negotiate with the Danes however he slays Efic the King's High-Reeve and Ethelred banishes him and confiscates the Earldom.	
1004	King Ethelred grants the Earldom to Ulfcytel the 6th Earl of East Anglia . Ulfcytel makes peace with Sweyn Forkbeard, King of Denmark who has landed at Norwich with a large force and sacked the city. The Danes break the peace and Ulfcytel forces them back to their ships causing the Danes heavy losses. He also fights the Danes at Thetford once again defeating them.	
1005	The Danes leave England probably due to the losses that Ulfcytel inflicted on them.	
1009	Ulfcytel fights Thorkell the Tall supported by a large Danish army, this time the Danes are victorious. Thorkell brings the young Canute with him who will become King of England.	
1010	Ulfcytel fights the Danes at Ringmere after they land near Ipswich, and the Danes are victorious again.	
1012	The Danes are bought off with a payment of £48,000 so that they will leave England.	
1016	King Edmund (Ironside) gathers a great army, including a force from East Anglia led by Ulfcytel and meets Canute the Great, King of the Danes at the Battle of Assandun (or Essendune). Ulfcytel dies in the fighting. During the battle Eadric Streona, Earl of Mercia leaves allowing the Danes to break through the English lines and the Danes win a decisive victory. A treaty is signed between Edmund and Canute stating that all of England apart from Wessex is to be under the rule of Canute and whichever of the Kings who dies first will leave the other to rule the whole of England.	Edmund II 1016 Canute 1016-1035
1017	Canute divides England into four Earldoms making Thorkell the Tall the 7th Earl of East Anglia .	
1021	Thorkell falls out with King Canute, is banished by the King, the Earldom is confiscated and Thorkell returns to Denmark.	Harold I 1035-1040 Harthacnut 1040-1042

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1044	King Edward the Confessor grants the Earldom of East Anglia to Harold Godwinson so that he will defend England against the impending attack from King Magnus the Good of Norway. Harold becomes the 8th Earl of East Anglia . Harold is the perfect candidate due to his estates in Cambridgeshire, Suffolk and Essex that he had gained through his marriage to Edith.	Edward the Confessor 1042-1066
1049	Harold is sent in command of a ship or ships as part of a fleet to aid Henry III, Holy Roman Emperor against Baldwin V, Count of Flanders.	
1051	Earl Godwin is exiled, and Harold accompanies his father and loses the Earldom. King Edward grants the Earldom to Elfgar (son of Leofric, Earl of Mercia) making him the 9th Earl of East Anglia .	
1052	Harold returns and works to get his father pardoned. Harold is restored to the Earldom of East Anglia making him the 10th Earl of East Anglia .	
1053	Earl Godwin dies, and Harold inherits the Earldom of Wessex. King Edward takes the Earldom of East Anglia from Harold as it would have made him too powerful. The East Anglia Earldom is returned to Elfgar making him the 11th Earl of East Anglia .	
1055	Elgar has a disagreement with King Edward, he is exiled and the Earldom confiscated. He raises a fleet of 18 ships in Ireland and sails to Wales where he joins forces with King Gruffydd against King Edward. The force invades Herefordshire and two miles from Hereford they clash with the army of the Earl of Hereford. They are victorious, despoil and burn Hereford killing many citizens. The Earldom is granted to Gyrth Godwinson (Harold's brother) making him the 12th Earl of East Anglia . He is also made Earl of Cambridgeshire and Oxfordshire.	
1066	Duke William lands in England and Gyrth tries and fails to convince his brother King Harold to let him lead an army to meet Duke William on the south coast. This would leave King Harold to stay in London and fight him there. Gyrth is part of King Harold's army at Hastings and is killed during the battle. Norman Conquest- Battle of Hastings	Harold II 1066 William I 1066-1087

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1067	Ralph the Staller has served under King Edward and earns favour with William the Conqueror who grants the Earldom to him, the 13th Earl of East Anglia . The role of Staller is the equivalent to the military role of Constable.	
1068/9	Ralph dies leaving a son and heir Ralph Guarder the 14th Earl of East Anglia .	
1069	Ralph routes a force of Vikings that have invaded Norfolk and occupied Norwich.	
1075	Ralph marries Emma (sole daughter of William Fitz Osbern, Earl of Hereford). The King refuses to sanction the marriage (which is required when senior families join). Ralph leads a revolt with his new brother-in-law Roger de Breteuil, 2 nd Earl of Hereford and Waltheof, Earl of Northumberland. The revolt ends in disaster after Waltheof loses heart and confesses the conspiracy to the Archbishop of Canterbury. Ralph meets a far superior Royal force and hurriedly retreats to Norwich. He leaves his wife to defend Norwich Castle and sails for Denmark to seek help. He eventually returns with a fleet of 200 ships. He is too late as Emma has negotiated terms for her to leave Norwich and was given 40 days to leave the realm. She travels to her estate in Brittany. Ralph meets her in Brittany and the Earldom is confiscated. The lands of the Earldom are granted to Alan the Red, Count of Brittany and Baron of Richmond but he is not granted the Earldom title. The Earldom is not granted again.	
1086	Domesday	
1215	Magna Carta	William II 1087-1100 Henry I 1100-35 Stephen 1135-54 Henry II 1154-89 Richard I 1189-99 John 1199-1216
1215-1217	First Barons War	Henry III 1216-72
1264-1267	Second Barons War	Edward I 1272-1307 Edward II 1307-27 Edward III 1327-77 Richard II 1377-1399 Henry IV 1399-1413

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1455-1487	War of the Roses	Henry V 1413-22 Henry VI 1422-61 1470-71 Edward IV 1461-70 1471-83 Edward V 1483 Richard III 1483-5 Henry VII 1485-1509 Henry VIII 1509-47 Edward VI 1547-53 Mary I 1553-58 Elizabeth I 1558-1603 James I 1603-25 Charles I 1625-49 Charles II 1660-85 James II 1685-88 William III 1688-1702 Anne 1702-14 George I 1714/27 George II 1727/60 George III 1760-1820 George IV 1820-30 William IV 1830-7 Victoria 1837-1901 Edward VII 1901-10 George V 1910-36 Edward VIII 1936 George VI 1936-52 Elizabeth II 1952-
1534	The Act of Supremacy – Church of England	
1642-1651	English Civil War	
1750-1850	Industrial Revolution	
2020	The title appears not to have been used for 945 years.	